

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 283893

47

ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /011 R

66604

DRAFTED BY S/S-O:PSHANKLE

APPROVED BY S/S-O:PSHANKLE

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

NSC/E, S/S

----- 029327

O 311757Z DEC 74 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL DORADO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 283893

TOSEC 104

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO LENINGRAD GENEVA AMMAN  
BAGHDAD BEIRUT CAIRO DAMASCUS JIDDA LONDON PARIS TEL AVIV  
USUN NEW YORK FROM MOSCOW 31 DEC 74:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 19191

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, UR, SY, IZ

SUBJ: POSTPONEMENT OF BREZHNEV'S MIDDLE EAST VISIT

REF: A. STATE 283489; B. MOSCOW 15894

1. THE JOINT SOVIET-EGYPTIAN STATEMENT ISSUED TO ACCOMPANY  
THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT BREZHNEV'S ME TOUR HAS BEEN  
POSTPONED (ALL MAJOR MORNING DAILIES AND TASS ENGLISH  
WIRE DECEMBER 31) STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT DIFFERENCES  
OVER THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND OVER THE APPROACH TO THE  
NEXT STAGES IN A ME PEACE SETTLEMENT HAVE PLAYED A MAJOR  
ROLE IN THE DECISION TO DELAY THE SOVIETEAEGYPTIAN SUMMIT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 283893

2. COMPARISON OF THE JOINT STATEMENT WITH THAT

ISSUED FOLLOWING FAHMY'S VISIT HERE LAST OCTOBER SEEMS TO SUGGEST THAT THE EGYPTIANS HAVE NOT MADE CONCESSIONS TO THE SOVIETS IN THIS REGARD, AND HAVE STUCK BY THEIR GUNS IN REFUSING TO ACCEPT THE MEPC AS THE ONLY VENUE FOR DISCUSSING THE ME CRISIS OR ACTING TO ACHIEVE ITS SETTLEMENT.

3. MAJOR POINTS IN THE PRESENT STATEMENT ARE:

A. THE USSR AND EGYPT CONSIDER THAT THE MEPC IS "AN APPROPRIATE (PODKHODYASHCHIY) FORUM TO REVIEW ALL ASPECTS OF A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT AND TO TAKE SUITABLE DECISIONS LEADING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JUST AND STABLE PEACE IN THE REGION." THE ANALAGOUS LANGUAGE IN OCTOBER REFERRED TO A ME POLITICAL SETTLEMENT "WHICH SHOULD BE (DOLZHNO BYT') REALIZED WITHIN THE FRAMWRORK OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE." THE LANGUAGE OF THE PRESENT STATEMENT THUS APPEARS TO REJECT THE IDEA THAT THE MEPC HAS TO BE THE ONLY VENUE FOR THE NEXT STAGES OF A SETTLEMENT AND LEAVES OPEN THE OPTION OF OTHER FORUMS FOR ACHIEVING FURTHER PROGRESS.

B. ON THE TIMING OF AND APPROACH TO GENEVA, THE STATEMENT APPEARS TO GO marginally further than did the OCTOBER STATEMENT TOWARD PLEDGING THE EGYPTIANS TO WORK ACTIVIELY FOR GETTING THE MEPC BACK TO WORK. IT SAYS THAT THE USSR AND EGYPT "FIRMLY COME OUT FOR THE FACT THAT THE MEPC SHOULD RENEW ITS WORK IN THE NEAREST FUTURE" WITH ALL INTERESTED PARTIES PARTICIPATING INCLUDING THE PLO. IT SAYS THAT THE PARTIES WILL "TAKE ALL MREASURES (PRILAGAT' VSYE USILII) IN THIS DIRECTION." THE PARTIES ALSO EXPRESS UNANIMITY IN THE VIEW THAT THE "EARLIEST RENEWAL OF THE CONFERENCE'S WORK WILL HAVE IMPORTANT POSITIVE MEANING" FOR ACHIEVING A JUST ME PEACE. IN OCTOBER THEY AGREED ONLY TO WORK FOR (DOBIVAT'SYA) THE RENEWAL OF THE MEPC IN THE NEAREST FUTURE.

4. SOVIET PRESS HAS ATTEMPTED TO PLAY DOWN THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BREZHNEV VISIT'S POSTPONEMENT BY PROMINENTLY REPORTING THE "FRIENDLY" ATMOSPHERE OF SOVIET-EGYPTIAN TALKS, OFFERING DIRECT EXPRESSIONS OF SOVIET FRIENDSHIP  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 283893

FOR THE ARABS, AND REPLAYING ARAB REPORTS IN PRAISE OF SOVIET-ARAB SOLIDARITY. THE MORNING PAPERS (DECEMBER 31) FOLLOW UP EARLIER REPORTS OF FRIENDLY MEETINGS BETWEEN THE EGYPTIAN MINISTERS AND THEIR SOVIET COUNTERPARTS WITH ARTICLES ON THE TALKS BETWEEN FAHMY AND GROMYKO AND BETWEEN GAMASY AND GRECHKO. THE PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR HOSTED A DINNER ATTENDED BY GROMYKO AND GRECHKO DECEMBER 30. ALL MEETINGS ARE DESCRIBED AS

TAKING PLACE IN A FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE, AND RED STAR AND SOVYETSKAYA ROSSIYA DOCUMENT THE ATMOSPHERICS WITH PHOTOS OF THE PARTICIPANTS WEARING BROAD SMILES. HOWEVER, THE PRESS HAS GIVEN NO HINT ABOUT WHAT THE PARTICIPANTS HAVE SAID, AND UNTYPICALLY HAS EVEN FAILED TO OFFER A SUMMARY OF THE TOASTS EXCHANGED AT GROMYKO'S LUNCHEON (PRAVDA DECEMBER 29) AND AT THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY.

5. ON THE GENERAL STATE OF SOVIET-ARAB RELATIONS, PRAVDA (DECEMBER 31) CARRIES A LONG REPLAY OF AN ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED IN EGYPTIAN PAPER AL MASA PRASING SOVIET-EGYPTIAN SOLIDARITY. IN SAME VEIN TASS COMMENTATOR YURIY KORNILOV (TASS ENGLISH WIRE DECEMBER 30) ASSERTS THAT THE USSR REMAINS LOYAL FRIEND OF THE ARABS AND CASTIGATES WESTERN PRESS SPECULATION ABOUT SOVIET-EGYPTIAN TENSIONS.

6. FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH, EGYPTIAN NEWSMEN HERE ARE ATTEMPTING TO LEAVE IMPRESSION WITH THEIR WESTERN COLLEAGUES THAT POSTPONEMENT OF VISIT WAS DUE TO BREZHNEV'S POOR HEALTH. FACT THAT BREZHNEV MET FOR ONLY HALF HOUR WITH FAHMY AND GAMASY AND THAT MEETING TOOK PLACE ON OUTSKIRTS OF MOSCOW ARE CITED IN SUPPORT OF THIS LINE OF REASONING.

7. COMMENT: THE LIMITED INFORMATION AVAILABLE (WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO CONTACT THE EGYPTIANS HERE) LEADS US TO TENTATIVE CONCLUSION THAT THE EGYPTIAN REFUSAL TO ABANDON THE STEP-BY-STEP OPTION IN PURSUING A ME SETTLEMENT IS PROBABLY BEHIND BREZHNEV'S POSTPONEMENT OF THE ME TOUR (REFTEL A). WE SUSPECT THAT THE POSTPONEMENT REFLECTS SOVIET DISPLEASURE WITH EGYPT'S REFUSAL TO TAKE MOSCOW'S INTERESTS INTO ACCOUNT REGARDING GENEVA AND WITH CAIRO'S UNWILLINGNESS  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 283893

TO TAKE THOSE "CONCRETE STEPS" TO WHICH GROMYKO REFERRED DURING HIS OCTOBER TALKS WITH FAHMY (REFTEL B). BY TAKING THE ALMOST UNPRECEDENTED STEP OF POSTPONING BREZHNEV'S TRIP SINE DIE FOLLOWING A LENGTHY BUILDUP OF SUPPORT FOR IT IN THE SOVIET PRESS, THE SOVIETS HAVE SEEMINGLY MADE IT CELAR TO SADAT THAT THEIR PRICE FOR A SUMMIT HAS NOT YET BEEN MET. THEY HAVE ALSO SHOWN IN THE STARKEST TERMS THAT EGYPT CANNOT COUNT ON FORCING THE SOVIET HAND. IN POSTPONING (RATHER THAN CANCELLING) THE VISIT MOSCOW NONETHELESS HAS LEFT THE OFFER OF A SUMMIT AND OF IMPROVED RELATIONS OPEN WHILE ATTEMPTING TO SADDLE SADAT WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAKING PROGRESS.

8. I HAVE APPOINTMENT FRIDAY AFTERNOON WITH SYTENKO, HEAD

OF MIDDLE EAST DIVISION, MFA, WHO WILL HOPEFULLY SHED SOME  
LIGHT ON THIS SUBJECT. STOESSEL UNQUOTE SISCO

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PARTY LEADERS, VISITS, TOSEC 104  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 DEC 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974STATE283893  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** O:PSHANKLE  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750001-0373  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t1974121/aaaaaasc.tel  
**Line Count:** 171  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 283489, 75 MOSCOW 15894  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 MAY 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <30 DEC 2002 by MorefiRH>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POSTPONEMENT OF BREZHNEV'S MIDDLE EAST VISIT  
**TAGS:** PFOR, EG, UR, SY, IZ, (BREZHNEV, LEONID I)  
**To:** DORADO  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005